

HOSTS OF BAPTISTS

Swoop Down Upon Georgia Capital for Great Meet.

B. Y. P. U. CONVENTION

Thirteenth Annual Session Called to Order in Atlanta With Over 500 Delegates from All Sections in Attendance.

The thirteenth annual convention of the Baptist Young People's Union of America opened in Atlanta, Ga., Thursday morning in the spacious auditorium at Exposition Park, with delegates from all parts of the United States and from Canada.

The opening of the convention was an inspiring one. Before President John H. Chapman, of Chicago, called it to order, the chorus of several hundred voices sang the beautiful songs in the B. Y. P. U. hymnals. At the appointed hour President Chapman, who has been at the head of the great movement since its inception over twelve years ago, called the big gathering to order, announcing that he had started the train on time and that it would continue on time until the end.

All through the morning session the singing of the well trained chorus of pretty B. Y. P. U. workers, under the direction of H. W. Porter, of Baltimore, added much to the inspiration of the occasion.

Rev. Ralph Hobbs, of Iowa, offered the opening prayer and then President Chapman made his introductory speech, declaring his pleasure and the pleasure of the other members of the convention at meeting in Atlanta.

Governor Terrell delivered an address of welcome on the part of the state. He said: As the chief executive of the greatest Baptist state, I desire to greet each one of you and welcome you to the grand old commonwealth of Georgia.

My friends, your president has spoken to you of our climate, and intimated that the warmth of the climate is an evidence of our welcome. On one occasion our distinguished mayor told of our climate. Some gentlemen wanted to change their states. The mayor recommended the climate of his own state. The gentlemen came and returned to say that "you have a great climate, but your land is worthless."

The mayor replied that in Georgia the farmers do not plant until June in order to have one planting and three gatherings.

But Georgia is resourceful and to its wealth of resource we welcome you, Georgia is a Baptist state. A large part of the good people of this state, a big part of this population belongs to the Baptist church. I refer to the negroes. They belong to the Baptist church because they don't believe that they belong to any church until they have gone down into the water and come up again.

I know you will enjoy meeting in this great city. We are a religious people. Atlanta is one of the few cities in this country that remembers the Sabbath day to keep it holy. And this city is backed up by the state.

This is a state of homes. The people own their homes and thanks be to God, they are Christian homes. As the chief executive of the state I welcome you.

Mayor Howell followed the governor, speaking on behalf of the city of Atlanta. His remarks were interspersed with humorous anecdotes, the kind he is famous for, and kept his hearers laughing most of the time.

The Baptists of Georgia were represented among the speakers by ex-Governor W. J. Northen, who sketched the history of the Baptist Young People's Union in the state and spoke of the help to the state union to come from the convention's meeting in Atlanta.

He also referred to the sentiment of brotherhood in a reunited country which this gathering exemplified.

Judge John T. Pendleton delivered the address of welcome on behalf of the churches of Atlanta.

A WILD GOOSE CHASE?

Opinion Prevails that Appeal of Greene and Gaynor Will Fail.

A dispatch from Quebec says: Mr. Tascheron, counsel for Gaynor and Greene, left Saturday evening for London, where he will be assisted there as counsel by Right Hon. H. Asquith, K. C., one of the leading members of the London bar. The general impression among members of the bar in Quebec is that the privy council will not grant Mr. MacMaster's petition to appeal, on the ground that an appeal should have been taken in this country.

TURMOIL IN THE BALKANS.

Belief Prevails that War Between Turkey and Bulgaria is Imminent.

In spite of the reassuring advice from Constantinople the belief prevails that war between Turkey and Bulgaria is imminent. Bulgarian bands in Macedonia are being organized under command of officers from Sofia for use as scouts and guerrillas and a large contraction of troops is taking place daily.

TREND IS NOW TOWARD GORMAN

Opinion of Democratic Leaders Points to Maryland for President.

A Washington special says: If the opinions of democratic leaders from different parts of the country can be taken as a fair indication of the trend of democratic sentiment, it may be said without fear of successful contradiction that conditions are shaping themselves to make Senator Gorman, of Maryland, the center of democratic interest.

OPINION OUT OF COURT.

Associate Justice Brewer, of Supreme Court Says Every Participant in Lynching is a "Murderer."

"Every man who participates in the lynching or the burning of a negro is a murderer, pure and simple."

This opinion was given by Associate Justice David G. Brewer, of the United States supreme court, who is in Milwaukee on private business.

"Of course," explained Judge Brewer, "there may be extenuating circumstances which would vary the degree of the crime, but the principal participants in the crime can be held by any court in the land for murder in the same degree as if the crime was committed by an individual."

"There is going to be a reaction against the atrocious crimes with which the papers have been filled. The fact that the people are now interesting themselves in the discussion of this problem makes manifest the fact that there is a tendency toward a change. I expect that it will come soon. I cannot say what form it will take, but there will be an uprising of popular feeling against lynching which will result in a remedy."

PEONAGE JURY DISAGREED.

In Their Discharge, Judge Jones Again Severely Flays Them.

The jury in the case of the United States vs. Fletcher Turner, in Montgomery, Ala., charged with holding Glennie Helms, a negro, in a condition of peonage, reported to Judge Thomas G. Jones late Monday afternoon that they could not agree on a verdict, and were discharged. The jury stood 6 to 6.

The judge then said in part: "The court will not hold you longer. There are some things, however, it is my duty to say to you, before you go; I say that not only as a judge, but as an Alabamian, as a southern man and as an ex-confederate soldier, I understand how disagreeable it may be at times for a man to discharge a duty, and that it is unpleasant to face hostile opinion, prejudice or passion, and to be misunderstood. These things come to every one who courageously discharges his duty. Nevertheless, I had hoped that this jury would be strong enough to do its duty and reach a conclusion. Those of you who have refused to follow the instructions of the court have in effect said to every body in and out of Alabama, that in a plain case, where there is no dispute as to law or the facts and no room for reasonable doubt, that a jury in one of the most intelligent districts of this state has divided and declined to enforce the law for no other reason than the base one that the defendant is a white man and the victim of the law is a negro boy."

It is stated that Turner will have to stand trial over again, and that another jury will be selected to try him. All the other cases against him have been postponed until August 3.

BIG TENT BLEW DOWN

And Thousands of Christian Endeavorers Were Nearly Suffocated.

At Denver, Colo., Monday afternoon, the big Tent Endeavorer convention was being held, when more than 8,000 persons were under the canvas, and nearly a score of men and women were slightly injured.

A man in the audience quickly sprang on a chair and called to the people to hold up the canvas and poles. This allowed air to circulate and prevented suffocation. As it was, many women fainted and were extricated from the folds of the canvas with much difficulty.

More than a thousand persons, who had sat near the walls of the tent, escaped the toils and immediately formed themselves into a rescue corps. Those who had fainted and those who suffered from injuries were quickly removed to the hospital tent.

As soon as most of the imprisoned delegates had been extricated, they congregated in the open air and held an impromptu praise service.

Rosa Crawford, a negro woman, has returned to Columbus, Ga., from Liberia and says she has enough of the African colony.

GIRL KILLS BABY SISTER.

Revolting Crime is Unearthed at Bloomington, Illinois.

A sensation was created in Bloomington, Ill., Monday by the arrest of Maude Jordine, aged 17, for the murder, several days ago of her 2-year-old sister, Mabel.

The baby was found hidden in some bushes near the Jordine home most horribly mutilated.

Maude is now charged with the crime, and other warrants are in preparation which will prove equally sensational. It is alleged Maude had assistance in the removal of the body.

AMERICANS WIN PALMA TROPHY

Alleged Crack Gunners of the World Were Easily Defeated.

At Brislley, England, Saturday American captured the Palma trophy. Her team scored an aggregate of 1,570 out of a possible 1,800 and beat all the best shots of Europe, South Africa, Australia and Canada, congregated for the first time on English soil to compete for the world's premier shooting trophy. Great Britain was second with 1,565.

IRISHMEN ENGAGE IN RIOTS.

Usual Aftermath of Yearly Celebration by the Orangemen.

At Belfast, Ireland, Monday, the Orangemen engaged in their annual celebration of July 12, in their customary way. About 100,000 men participated in the celebration.

The procession of Orangemen on returning from their demonstration were attacked by nationalists and a serious riot ensued.

HEAT WAVE BEGINS

Deadly Havoc is Inaugurated New York and Brooklyn.

THIRTY-SIX DIED FRIDAY

Besides the Enormous List of Fatalities a Total of Eighty-Three Prostrations Were Reported in a Few Hours' Time.

When the International Baptist Young People's Union set out to select its first president thirteen years ago, John H. Chapman, of Chicago, was the choice of the infant organization for this office.

There has never been another president of the union, for the first choice seemed to have been the wisest possible, and so when Mr. Chapman's name was proposed for re-election in the convention in Atlanta Friday morning there was not one murmur of dissent and for the thirteenth time he was installed in office as head of the great society.

Enthusiasm ran high in the auditorium at Piedmont park just after the election, and it was jubilant enthusiasm that broke out in song—such songs as "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," and "God Save the King," for Canada as well as the United States sends its representatives to the convention of the union.

The whole election was unanimous, for that matter. The selections of the nominating committee were read by Rev. J. M. Shelburne, of Alabama, chairman of that body, and were adopted instantly by "a show of hands," each name being greeted with a storm of applause. The full list of the officers is:

John H. Chapman, of Chicago, president; George Miller, of Baltimore, first vice president; Professor A. L. McCrimmon, of Woodstock, Ontario, second vice president; W. W. Gaines, of Atlanta, third vice president; H. W. Reed, of Rock Island, Ill., recording secretary; H. B. Osgood, of Chicago, treasurer.

Rev. R. M. Hinselaker, of Pennsylvania; O. W. Van Osdel, D. D., Washington, Hamilton H. West, Illinois; Rev. C. H. Dodd, of New Jersey; James R. Vaughan, Iowa; O. P. Colshaw Oregon; Rev. J. B. Oates, Florida; Rev. G. P. Raymond, P. E. I.; L. Halsey, D. D., Arizona; Orrin R. Judd New York; Rev. A. D. Berry, of Indiana; Rev. Herbert J. White, Massachusetts; Rev. J. B. Vickert, B. C.; Henry Van Engelen, Idaho; J. D. Chapman, South Carolina; J. W. Connally, D. D., Nebraska; Charles M. Ness, Maryland; T. W. O'Kelly, of Arkansas.

The executive committee chosen is composed of the following:

After the announcement of the elections Professor McCrimmon, the Canadian second vice president, presented the convention with two British-American flags, the flags of Canada. That was what set the vast audience to singing, for when the pretty colors were formally accepted a part of the audience gave up cheering and began to sing "God Save the King." Then the whole assemblage sang, following the first air with "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" and "Blessed be the Tie that Binds." The very building rang with stirring strains of the songs.

EDWARD TO ROOSEVELT.

England's Ruler Toasts Health and Sends Message of Friendship.

King Edward, of England, after proposing the health of President Roosevelt at the banquet in Buckingham palace, which he gave Thursday night to Admiral Cotton and the officers of the American squadron now at Portsmouth, intimated while sitting at the banquet board a message of friendship to the president. The cable was received at Oyster Bay, and was as follows:

"London, July 9, 1903.—The President, Oyster Bay, N. Y.—I have the great pleasure in entertaining Admiral Cotton and the captains of his squadron, and have just proposed your health with every feeling of cordiality and friendship. EDWARD R."

Owing to the continued rocking of cars armed guards are still kept on the street cars in Richmond, Va.

The street car strikers at Beaumont, Texas, have won their demands and have gone back to work.

Intense heat still prevails in the great cities. Deaths and prostrations were numerous Saturday.

Near St. Louis a crowded train was wrecked by spreading rails. One person was killed, four seriously and twenty slightly injured.

Trustees of Mercer university at Macon, Ga., met Thursday morning to prepare formal protest against enactment of measure requiring two years' course in law schools.

AFTER THE REGICIDES.

Plot to Avenge Murder of King Alexander and Queen Draga Unearthed.

It is said that the Serbian authorities have unearthed a conspiracy to avenge the late King Alexander. A lieutenant of a frontier garrison has been arrested. A search of his quarters disclosed evidence that twelve officers had formed a league to take vengeance upon the regicides.

SANGER OUT; OLIVER IN.

Change Occurs in the Office of Assistant Secretary of War.

President Roosevelt has decided to appoint Brigadier General Robert Shaw Oliver, of Albany, N. Y., as assistant secretary of war to succeed Colonel William Cary Sanger, resigned.

The appointment was agreed on Monday at a conference between the president and Secretary Root at Oyster Bay.

BOOST FOR MONROEISM.

Britishers Intimate that We Should Exercise Financial Control in South American States.

A London dispatch says: Lord Mayor of Samuel gave a luncheon at the Mansion house in honor of Rear Admiral Cotton and officers of the United States European squadron, at anchor in Portsmouth harbor.

After the toast to King Edward and President Roosevelt had been received the lord mayor proposed the health of "Admiral Cotton, his officers and the entire American navy."

"Gentlemen," said the lord mayor, "in the course of my term of office it is my duty to entertain many people, but I wish to tell you that this lunch was not officially inspired. I could not let the American squadron go without showing, I hope, all the people of America that ties of race, blood and language are recognized here in the city of London, more warmly than in any other part of the world. May the bonds which bind the two countries ever grow closer, and, if necessary, may we face the whole world together, while always endeavoring by every means in our power to maintain the peace of the world."

Incidentally the lord mayor made a striking reference to the Kishinef massacre. He said he was thankful that the United States was not bound by diplomatic rules and etiquette and had not hesitated to raise its voice in protest against the barbarities of the world wherever they occur.

Admiral Cotton made a graceful acknowledgment of the kindly welcome that the Americans had received from the British fleet and people and added:

"The squadron is here by direct order of the president of the United States and as a messenger of peace and good will. I am sure I speak for the peoples of both countries when I say I hope and I believe that the cross of St. George and the stars and stripes will never be waved but in amity and friendship and for the peace of the world."

Prolonged cheers greeted the admiral's speech.

In conversation with American officers at the king's dinner at Buckingham palace the evening previous, the members of the cabinet expressed a desire for an extension of the Monroe doctrine. Recognizing the paramount influence of the United States over the western hemisphere, Great Britain, they said, wants Washington to exercise control in some way over the financial obligations of the Central and South American states. Apparently Great Britain, not desiring a repetition of the Venezuelan affair, favors the adoption of means whereby small republics will be compelled to meet their obligations without pressure from Europe.

ROOT AT SAGAMORE HILL.

Secretary of War in Conference With President Over Important Matters.

Secretary of War Elihu Root was the guest Sunday night of President Roosevelt at Sagamore Hill. He arrived at Oyster Bay unaccompanied on the 5:30 o'clock train.

Secretary Root said that his purpose in visiting the president was to discuss with him some departmental matters. The pending investigation of army contracts, the Alaskan boundary question and some problems relating to the Philippines were considered. This probably will be the last conference that the president and the secretary of war will have before the latter sails for England to begin the work of the Alaskan boundary commission.

TO EVANGELIZE THE WORLD.

Endeavors, Epworth League and B. Y. P. U. to Amalgamate.

A movement of signal importance in the religious world has been launched by the Christian Endeavor convention No. 5, in session at Denver, Colorado. It is a tentative proposal to work for the amalgamation of Christian Endeavor Society, Epworth League and the Baptist Union and it will be presented in the form of a petition from the Endeavors to the other two national bodies. The keynote of the movement is the evangelization of the world.

LAW FINALLY TRIUMPHS.

After Being Four Times Sentenced Negro at Last Stretches Hemp.

Abe Cohen, a negro, met death on the gallows at Savannah, Ga., Friday morning in expiation of the crime of murder. His was a crime in which more than the ordinary interest in a negro murder was exhibited.

A year ago Cohen cruelly shot Susie Rogers, a negro woman, to death. Four times the sentence of death had been pronounced, and four times the attorneys were able to secure a stay of execution upon one ground or another.

THREE KILLED IN EXPLOSION.

Deadly Accident Occurs at the Works of Birmingham Powder Company.

Three men were instantly killed and another fatally injured by an explosion in the coaling mill of the Birmingham, Ala., powder mills near Boyles, five miles from the city, Saturday afternoon.

The building was totally wrecked by the explosion, although it did not affect any of the other eleven buildings.

PILDITCH ROBBED EMPLOYERS.

American Manager of British Steel Company Heavy Defaulter.

Frank S Pilditch, for eighteen years New York manager for the Wardlaw Steel Company, of Sheffield, England, was arrested Monday on two indictments, charging grand larceny and subsequently released in \$5,000 bail.

His books, it is said, show a shortage of more than \$70,000. Through counsel Pilditch offered to pay up the alleged shortage in order to avoid arrest.

ON RACE HARMONY

Booker Washington Speaks Before Atlanta Audience.

MANY WHITES PRESENT

Occasion Was a Church Anniversary Celebration—Governor Terrell, of Georgia, Sends Message of Welcome.

Booker T. Washington, head of Tuskegee Institute, spoke in Atlanta, Ga., Monday night to a large audience—mostly white—on "Harmony Between the Races."

He was the guest of the First Congregational church, colored, which celebrated its thirty-sixth anniversary. Washington's address was delivered at Turner's Tabernacle on Yonge street.

In his every utterance there was an appeal for the black men to recognize the fact that their best friends and their best interests were in the southland, and that it was for them to improve these opportunities in such a way that the white men would recognize their ability as laborers and admit the fact that they could not get along without them.

"Work, work with your hands and put the best that is in your head into the work of your hands. Do it better than any one else can do it. But your own houses. Buy land. Have a bank account. Don't spend seven days at a camp meeting when you ought to be improving your farm. Learn how to use your hands in such a way that no one else can take your place. Be tax payers. And when you are tax payers you will have the best interests of the community in your heart, and this much mooted race question will have been settled."

So preached Booker Washington, interspersing his remarks with telling and pertinent stories, sometimes pathetic, more often humorous, but with a homely truth so strongly borne out that no one could mistake the purport and the mission of the experience or anecdote.

"While I will not attempt to deny the injustice of slavery, we of my race must ever remember that we owe much to our masters. It was between the slaves of the older generations and their masters that seeds of friendship were sown that must not be forgotten and let us all see to it that these ties are strengthened rather than torn down, as they have so often been done. We must remember, too, that slavery put us in touch with skilled labor and we came here out of Africa without a language and without means of using our hands and we have come out American citizens, carrying Bibles and opportunities for education. I thank God for the fact that Georgia did not yield to the temptation of dividing the colored school fund, and this shows where our friends, our real friends, are to be found.

Governor Terrell's Welcome.

The first message of the evening was from Governor Terrell, who was unable to be present. He sent the following:

"Rev. H. H. Proctor and Members of the First Congregational Church, Colored: I desire to congratulate you and your church on this its anniversary, and, in this connection, to note the fact that evidence of peace and good will among your flock is shown in its being the ninth anniversary of your pastorate.

"I hear that you are doing a good work on the lines of racial peace, and so long as you and others continue to employ their good offices in a way that will steer your people around the evils of racial antagonism, all will be well.

"Booker T. Washington, who comes, I understand, to join your church in this anniversary celebration, is a recognized leader of the negro race, on whom a great responsibility rests, as the result of his special endowment. He can accomplish much by leading his people in paths of righteous and peaceful endeavor, and in directing them against foolish and useless agitation. His efforts on this line will receive the encouragement of the best white sentiment of the south. In this lies the hope of the negro race.

"With a sincere wish that your congregation will grow in grace, and that law-abiding effort may yet become the standard of excellence among your people, I take pleasure in subscribing myself their friend.

"J. M. TERRELL, Governor of Georgia."

Alleged Murderers Out on Bond.

Chauncey Dewey, Clyde Wilson and W. F. McBride left the Shawnee county jail at Topeka, Kans., Monday, under a bond of \$15,000 each, to appear for trial for the murder of the Berry family.

DASHED INTO EXCURSION TRAIN.

Wreck in Which Three Tramps Were Killed and Fifty Negroes Injured.

The fast mail from St. Louis on the Missouri Pacific, due in Kansas City Sunday morning, crashed into an excursion train that had broken down at "Dead Man's Curve," three miles from Lees Summit. Three tramps were killed and fifty negroes injured. One engine was ditched and several cars were wrecked.

GIRL COFFINED WHILE ALIVE.

Her Cries Heard Just as Interment Was About to Take Place.

A terrible case of a person being placed in a coffin alive has occurred at Altona, Germany. In a coffin, containing the supposed remains of a 14-year-old girl being delivered at the cemetery, the attendants heard cries emanating from the coffin. The lid was removed and the girl was found to be still alive. She died, however, two hours later.

THE TOWER OF JEZREEL

The Memory of an Extinct Sect of Religious Fanatics.

On the summit of Chatham Hill, says The London Sketch, there is a colossal structure that forms a landmark for miles around. It is known



THE TOWER OF JEZREEL.

as "Jezreel's Tower," and was erected not so very many years ago by an extinct sect called the Jezreelites. Their leader, one White—or, as he preferred to call himself, "James Jeershom Jezreel"—had previously been a soldier, but found more profitable employment in preaching a faith which promised immortality to all its believers. Money flowed into the exchequers of the "faithful," and the "Temple of Jezreel" was commenced, "for the housing of 144,000 persons who were not to taste death." However, before the building was completed the faith of the immortal Jezreelites received a rude shock. White died, and most of the money also disappeared. It is, perhaps, needless to say that the faith of the Jezreelites in their own immortality died with him. A half-finished, ugly, gaping mass of bricks and iron still remains—a not inappropriate reminder of such a piece of monumental folly.

A Giant Sassafras.

The accompanying picture shows the largest sassafras tree I have ever seen or heard of. The tree measures thirteen feet in circumference and its height must be between forty and fifty feet. The tree stands in the township of Red Hook, Dutchess County, New York, about two or three miles south-east of Tivoli, on the road from Tivoli to Upper Red Hook. I have driven past this tree every spring for nearly sixty years. The trunk is now a mere shell, and I desire to place on record the portrait of this venerable tree before it vanishes. Years ago the tree was covered with wild grape, and every spring it was covered with bloom, the fragrance of which made the air



tree famous. At such times the tree was enveloped by a cloud of insects attracted by the blossoming of the grape. The hum of myriad wings made a memorable sound.—D. P., in Country Life in America.

The Latest Disease.

Fanitis is the latest malady to attack the human race. It is a disease to which only civilized people are subject. Moreover, it is prevalent in summer, and persons who frequent summer gardens and cafes are liable to be numbered among its victims. It is nothing more than an ordinary cold or neuralgia produced by the drafts created by electric fans. Nevertheless, physicians, in a spirit of humor, have chosen to give it a semi-scientific name, and many practitioners are confident the malady under its new nomenclature will prove as popular as la grippe or appendicitis.—New York Press.

Round Boats on the Euphrates.

At Amarah, an Arab town of sun-dried bricks, situated on the verge of a bank a little above the broad, turbid waters of the Euphrates River, we saw for the first time those wonderfully ancient boats—ancient even when Herodotus mentioned them—called "ku-



fas" or "gophers." They are deep round baskets, in appearance some what like the coracles of the ancient Britons, and are covered with bitumen with incurved tops.—Wide World Magazine.



Charles F. Murphy, Head of Tammany Hall.

JONES ROASTS JURY

Sensational Charge by Jurist in Federal Court.

DEMANDS A CONVICTION

Declares that Fletcher Turner is Guilty of Peonage Charge—An Interesting Piece of Political Gossip on the Side.

Judge Thomas G. Jones, of the United States court in Montgomery, Ala., delivered a sensational charge to the jury in the case of the United States vs. Fletcher Turner, charged with holding one Glennie Helms, a negro, in a condition of peonage.

Although there were only a few persons in the court room at the time, surprise was heard on every side. At 5 o'clock Saturday afternoon the jury filed into the court room and informed the judge that there was no chance or prospect of their reaching a verdict in the case.

Judge Jones then vehemently lectured them. He told them that if they believed the evidence offered by the government the defendant was guilty; that if they believed the evidence offered by the defendant the defendant was guilty, and that if they believed the undisputed fact in the case the defendant was guilty.

He said he had no power to put the jury in jail for contempt of court, but that if they did not return a verdict of guilty they would perjure themselves in the sight of God and dishonor themselves in the eyes of man.

Congressman A. G. Wiley, counsel for the defendant excepted to the remarks of the judge. The case is now exciting more attention than ever before. The jury was discharged until Monday at 11 o'clock.

Judge Jones May Be Promoted.

An interesting piece of political gossip is now going the rounds in Montgomery concerning Judge Jones. It is in effect that, in view of the judge's courage and determination to punish those guilty of holding negroes in slavery in Alabama, and the great ability he has displayed on the bench, that he will be appointed by President Roosevelt member of the circuit court of appeals when a vacancy occurs shortly after the retirement of one of the judges from that court who will have reached the age limit on the bench. There is a general belief locally that when the vacancy occurs the plum will fall to the distinguished Alabamian.